

Claim Amendments

Deletions Double Bracketed (5 words or less) and/or Strikeout - Additions Underlined

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

- Claim 1. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 2. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 3. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 4. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 5. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 6. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 7. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 8. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 9. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 10. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 11. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 12. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 13. (Currently Canceled)**
- Claim 14. (Currently Canceled)**

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A vacuum ring for use in conjunction with a test plate on a component testing system for testing DUTs such that each DUT has a cross sectional area less than a predetermined minimum cross sectional area, the vacuum ring comprising:

a base; and

means for ejecting DUTs from the test plate, said means including an eject hole pattern defined by the base for discharging compressed gas toward the DUTs;

wherein the eject hole pattern includes a plurality of closely spaced apart individual holes such that each of the individual holes has a cross sectional area that is less than the size that would be large enough to receive a DUT having the predetermined minimum cross sectional area; and

wherein the base does not include a resistance heating element or a plasma generating electrode;

whereby the number of holes affecting a particular DUT for DUT ejection purposes is dependent on the cross sectional size of that particular DUT.

Claim 16. (Original) A vacuum ring as recited in claim 15, wherein the holes have uniform circular shapes with diameters of about five mils.

Claim 17. (Original) A vacuum ring as recited in claim 15, further comprising a ceramic layer on the base.